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Letter dated 4 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring to your attention the recent unlawful and inflammatory statement made by Saudi Deputy Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia.

On 2 May 2017, Prince Mohammed bin Salman stated, "We will work so that the battle is on their side, inside Iran, not in Saudi Arabia". While categorically rejecting the baseless allegations against my country, I wish to underline that his statement reflects an unveiled threat against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as a clear admission of the long-known complicity of the Saudi regime in acts of terror and violence inside Iran, the latest of which resulted in the murder of nine Iranian border guards by the Saudi-financed armed bands. This blatant threat and admission is being made by a regime with a long record of supporting aggression and using terrorist and extremist groups for its short-sighted and dangerous ambitions in the region and beyond.

Over the past four decades, our region and the world have suffered tremendously as a consequence of Saudi insecurity and misplaced obsession with Iran, clearly manifested in the above-quoted statement. This has led to irresponsible, provocative and ill-fated policies and practices of promoting and financing extremism globally and short-sighted and self-defeating adventurism in the region.

We all — including Saudi authorities — need to be reminded of the fact that this misplaced obsession and insecurity led to the Kingdom's unreserved support and financing of Saddam Hussein's aggression against Iran from 1980 to 1988, whose devastating consequence was not confined to the hundreds of thousands of Iranians who became victims of Saddam's aggression and use of chemical weapons, but engulfed the entire region after his invasion of Kuwait and threats against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, biting the hands that had fed and sustained him.

The creation of Al-Qaida and the Taliban in the 1990s, sponsorship of terror and instability in Iraq since 2003, and the formation, financing and arming of ISIS, Al-Nusrah and other terrorist organizations in Iraq and Syria over the past several years are other manifestations of the same Saudi misplaced obsession, which have brought misery and insecurity to the entire globe. It is imperative for the international community to take necessary action to compel Saudi Arabia to stop its reckless sponsorship of terrorism and extremism in the region and across the globe, and particularly its blatant and open aggression, starvation and genocide against the people of Yemen.

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In contrast to Saudi rulers, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that peace and stability is in the common interest of every State in the Persian Gulf region and that no country can attain security at the expense of insecurity for others. We have no desire, nor any interest, in an escalation of tension in our neighbourhood. We continue to stand ready for dialogue and accommodation to promote regional stability, combat destabilizing extremist violence and reject sectarian hatred. We hope Saudi Arabia will be persuaded to heed the call of reason.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative